

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in this application:

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently amended) ~~An interactive program guide (IPG)~~ A networked television schedule system comprising:

a distribution facility that provides television programming;

~~a database electrically coupled to a first network~~ for storing television schedule information;

a first network that communicates with the database via a global computer network and the distribution facility via a communications path other than the global computer network, the first network comprising:

~~a television tuner electrically coupled to a second network, wherein the second network is in communication with the first network~~ that receives the television programming;

~~a display monitor electrically coupled to the second network;~~

~~a storage device electrically coupled to the second network~~ for storing television programs;

an input device ~~electrically coupled to the~~
~~second network~~ for receiving user inputs; and

a processor ~~electrically coupled to the~~
~~second network programmed for~~ configured to:

~~accessing~~ access the database to
display a portion of the television schedule information on the
display monitor in a guide format and

~~for controlling~~ control the storage
device to store a television program selected from the
displayed television schedule information and received from the
distribution facility.

2. (Currently amended) The ~~[[IPG]]~~ networked
television schedule system of claim 1, wherein ~~the first~~
~~network~~ the global computer network is the Internet.

3. (Currently amended) The ~~[[IPG]]~~ networked
television schedule system of claim 1, wherein the ~~second~~ first
network is a home network.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently amended) The ~~[[IPG]]~~ networked
television schedule system of claim 2, wherein the database is
accessible via a web site.

6. (Currently amended) The [[IPG]] networked television schedule system of claim 1, wherein the storage device is a VCR.

7. (Currently amended) The [[IPG]] networked television schedule system of claim 1, wherein the storage device is a digital storage device.

8. (Currently amended) The [[IPG]] networked television schedule system of claim 1, wherein the selected television program is a future television program.

9. (Currently amended) The [[IPG]] networked television schedule system of claim 1, wherein the selected television program is a current television program.

10. (Currently amended) The [[IPG]] networked television schedule system of claim 1, further comprising means for controlling the television tuner to tune to the selected television program.

11. (Currently amended) The [[IPG]] networked television schedule system of claim 10, wherein the selected television program is a future television program.

12. (Currently amended) The [[IPG]] networked television schedule system of claim 10, wherein the selected television program is a current television program.

13. (Currently amended) The [[IPG]] networked television schedule system of claim 1, wherein the first network further comprising comprises a second database ~~electrically coupled to the second network and accessible from the IPG by the processor~~ for providing previews of upcoming programs.

14. (Currently amended) The [[IPG]] networked television schedule system of claim 1, wherein the processor is further comprising an icon displayed configured to display an icon on the display monitor for establishing a link to a product database for purchasing a product.

15. (Currently amended) The [[IPG]] networked television schedule system of claim 1, wherein the processor is further comprising an icon displayed within the IPG configured to display an icon with the displayed television schedule information for establishing a link to a service provider database for information independent of [[the]] a user's program choice.

16. (Currently amended) The [[IPG]] networked television schedule system of claim 15, wherein[,] the service provider database includes one or more of news, weather, sports, scores, financial data, and local traffic.

17. (Currently amended) The [[IPG]] networked television schedule system of claim 1 further comprising a virtual agent for automatically searching the ~~first network~~ database and providing pointers to locations in the ~~first network~~ database based on preferences of ~~[[the]]~~ a user.

18. (Currently amended) The [[IPG]] networked television schedule system of claim 17, wherein[,] the virtual agent learns from previous user choices for customizing ~~the IPG~~ the displayed television schedule information for each particular user.

19. (Currently amended) The [[IPG]] networked television schedule system of claim 2, wherein the processor is further ~~comprising~~ configured to establish a link to a chatroom Internet site related to a selected television program.

20. (Currently amended) The [[IPG]] networked television schedule system of claim 1, wherein the processor is further ~~comprising~~ configured to display a section for

providing information about a particular future television
program on the display monitor.

21. (Currently amended) The [[IPG]] networked
television schedule system of claim 20, wherein~~[[,]]~~ the
information about a particular future program includes one or
more of a picture, video, and descriptive text.

22. (Currently amended) The [[IPG]] networked
television schedule system of claim 20, wherein~~[[,]]~~ the
section for providing information about a particular future
program is interactive in response to ~~[[the]]~~ user ~~[[input]]~~
inputs.

23. (Currently amended) The [[IPG]] networked
television schedule system of claim 1, wherein the first
network further ~~comprising~~ comprises a second database
~~electrically coupled to the second network and accessible from~~
~~the IPG by the processor~~ for providing advertisements.

24. (Currently amended) The [[IPG]] networked
television schedule system of claim 1, wherein further
~~comprising: a second database electrically coupled to the~~
~~second~~ first network further comprises a second database and

~~accessible from the IPG for storing~~ wherein the processor is further configured to:

store television schedule information for television programs on the second database;

~~means for retrieving a~~ retrieve stored television schedule information associated with a television program from the second database; and

~~means for storing~~ store the television program associated with the retrieved television schedule information ~~program~~ in the storage device.

25. (Currently amended) A method for displaying an interactive program guide (IPG) comprising the steps of:

storing television schedule information in a database ~~electrically coupled to a first network;~~

accessing the database using a processor included on a first network to display a portion of the television schedule information in a guide format on a display monitor ~~electrically coupled to a second~~ included on the first network, wherein the ~~second~~ first network ~~is in communication~~ communicates with the ~~first network~~ database over a global computer network;

receiving user inputs via an input device
~~electrically coupled to~~ included on the ~~second~~ first network;
tuning a television tuner ~~electrically coupled~~
~~to~~ included on the ~~second~~ first network to a television program
selected from the displayed television schedule information;
and
controlling a storage device ~~electrically~~
~~coupled to~~ included on the ~~second~~ first network for storing a
television program selected from the displayed television
schedule information and received from a distribution facility
in communication with the first network via a communications
path other than the global computer network.

26. (Currently amended) The method of claim 25,
wherein the ~~first network~~ global computer network is the
Internet.

27. (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein the
~~second~~ first network is a home network.

28. (Canceled)

29. (Original) The method of claim 26, wherein the
accessing step comprises accessing the database via a web site.

30. (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein the storage device is a VCR.

31. (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein the storage device is a digital storage device.

32. (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein the selected television program is a future television program.

33. (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein the selected television program is a current television program.

34. (Currently amended) The method of claim 25 further comprising the step of displaying previews of upcoming programs from a second database ~~electrically coupled to~~ included on the second first network and accessible from the IPG.

35. (Original) The method of claim 25 further comprising the step of displaying an icon for establishing a link to a product database for purchasing a product.

36. (Currently amended) The method of claim 25 further comprising the step of displaying an icon within the television schedule guide for establishing a link to a service

provider database for information independent of ~~[[the]]~~ a user's program choice.

37. (Currently amended) The method of claim 25 further comprising the step of automatically searching the ~~first-network~~ database and providing pointers to locations in the ~~first-network~~ database based on preferences of ~~[[the]]~~ a user.

38. (Currently amended) The method of claim 25 further comprising the steps of learning from previous user choices and customizing the display of the television schedule guide for each particular user.

39. (Original) The method of claim 26 further comprising the steps of establishing a link to a chatroom Internet site related to a selected program and entering the chatroom.

40. (Original) The method of claim 25 further comprising the step of providing information about a particular future program wherein, the information includes one or more of a picture, video, and descriptive text.

41. (Currently amended) The method of claim 25 further comprising the steps of:

storing television schedule information for television programs in a second database electrically coupled to included on the second first network and accessible from the IPG;

retrieving [[a]] stored television schedule information associated with a television program from the second database; and

storing the television program associated with the retrieved television schedule information program in the storage device.

42. (Currently amended) A networked television schedule system comprising:

a database ~~accessible via the Internet~~ for storing television schedule information;

a television tuner ~~electrically coupled to a network, wherein the network is in communication with the Internet~~ included on a first network that communicates with the database via a public network;

a storage device ~~electrically coupled to the network~~ included on the first network for storing television programs ~~received from the network~~; and

a processor ~~electrically coupled to the network~~ programmed for included on the first network configured to:

~~accessing~~ access the database to receive and display a portion of the television schedule information on a display monitor, wherein the portion of the television schedule information is received over the public network and

~~for controlling~~ control the storage device to store ~~via the network~~ a television program selected from the displayed television schedule information.

43. (Currently amended) The system of claim 41, wherein the first network is a home network.

44. (Currently amended) The system of claim 41, wherein the database and the first network ~~is a part~~ are both parts of the Internet.

45. (Original) The system of claim 41, wherein the database is accessible via a web site.

46. (Original) The system of claim 41, wherein the storage device is a digital storage device.

47. (Original) The system of claim 41, wherein the selected television program is a future television program.